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GOLDEN PLATE AWARDS COUNCIL*

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DR. MICHAEL E. DeBAKEY
RENOVED HEART SURGEON

HON. JOHN J. SIRICA
WATERGATE TRIAL JUDGE

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ACADEMY OF ACHIEVEMENT



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TO: Academy members and friends
FROM: Brian and Wayne Reynolds
SUBJECT: 1979 Banquet "Progress Report" #1

WAYNE R. REYNOLDS
Managing Director
August 24, 1978

From our new national headquarters -- as listed above -- it is our pleasure to report that the 1978 Salute to Excellence weekend brought together another exciting pantheon of celebrated achievers from the great fields of endeavor. Joining the guests of honor in the weekend "retreat" were nearly every Patron of the Academy, 12 invited members of the Awards Council -- including Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, Judge John J. Sirica, Lowell Thomas, Helen Hayes, Dr. Edward Teller, General Jimmy Doolittle, Coris Leachman, Louis Nizer, Admiral James Stockdale, Col. Harland Sanders, and Edward Asner (who served as the narrator for the Golden Plate awards presentations) -- and a record-setting 370 most outstanding high school honor students from across the country, including 40 national champion honor youths who each received our Golden Eagle Award.

Nine of the guests of honor have joined our Awards Council...including Clark Clifford, CIA Director Stansfield Turner, FBI Director William Webster, General Omar Bradley, Gordie Howe, Tom Landry, Judge Frank Johnson, Jr., and Olivia de Havilland (whose Banquet of the Golden Plate remarks were perhaps the most unforgettable in the history of the American Academy of Achievement).

At the Friday evening outing on the Green estate...where Col. Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken hosted the informal meal...the wildly enthusiastic students gave a series of 12 standing ovations to honored guests of the Academy -- particularly Debby Boone and Steve Cauthen (who received their Golden Plates that evening) and symposium speakers Admiral Turner and Miss de Havilland.

As reflected in the enclosed montage of news stories about the 17th annual "gathering of the greats," Danny Scholl again electrified the audience when he closed the Banquet with his incomparable rendition of "The Impossible Dream."

Our special thanks for extraordinary service during the Salute program also is extended to Bill Elmer, Roy Richards, Bob Green, Nicholas F. Brady, and narrator Spence Kinard.

New Academy officers -- elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Sponsors on the morning after the Banquet -- are: Board Chairman Harry Merlo, Chairman of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation. President Wallace Rasmussen, Chairman of Beatrice Foods Co. Vice President Peter Kiewit, Chairman of Peter Kiewit Sons', Inc.

Chairman Merlo and the new Executive Committee will meet in Los Angeles on August 31 regarding plans for the 1979 Banquet weekend at Salt Lake City, June 21-23; discussion of a national telecast; and consideration of Chicago and Los Angeles as Banquet sites.

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization, dedicated to the Inspiration of Youth--to raise their sights high; to the Education of the Nation--to the Education of the Golden Plate... to Captains of Achievement from America's great walks of life and honor students from across the nation.

*partial list. Each member is a past recipient of the Golden Plate Award.

The seventh annual Founder's Medal -- "for extraordinary service" to the Golden Plate Awards Council -- was presented at the Banquet of the Golden Plate, by Dr. Michael E. DeBakey...on behalf of the entire Academy...to Judge John J. Sirica, whose devoted leadership last year was a primary force in the success of our last program.

A few moments later, the first annual Blanche Reynolds Memorial Medal was presented by Nathan Shapell to Paul H. Smucker for his "extraordinary service" to the Academy's Executive Committee.

Under the guidance of our Awards Council -- now under the co-chairmanship of Dr. DeBakey, Judge Sirica, and Lowell Thomas -- the first guest of honor invitational letters for the 1979 Salute program are being readied for mailings across the country, in connection with their consideration of approval and signature.

Our third Banquet weekend at Salt Lake City next June -- which again will include a Friday evening mountain-top outing at nearby Snowbird Resort, and a Saturday night finale in the Salt Palace -- was made possible by a guarantee...from past honorees Bob Rice and Maurice Warshaw...of not less than \$40,000 in local support, which is needed to supplement our basic national funding. (The escalation of hotel room costs across the USA is making necessary guarantees of \$50,000 to \$60,000 in local support for future annual programs.)

The increase in all costs have necessitated a similar rise in the sponsorship costs of honor youth delegates to the Banquet weekend, which now are either \$250 plus the round-trip fare to the "host city," or a flat \$500 gift to the Academy (covering all expenses, including round-trip, regardless of the student's hometown).

Through the special assistance of past chairman Ernest W. Hahn -- who again will sponsor a boy and a girl honor student from each of 30 shopping center communities to the "gathering of the greats" -- our treasurer Marge Kurylo (of Beatrice Foods Company) has arranged for Touche Ross & Co. to execute our annual audit, and to guide our CPA's in their monthly services to the Academy.

Meantime, we express our appreciation for these major donations in recent months:

- \$10,000 from Louisiana-Pacific Foundation (via Harry A. Merlo)...1974 guest of honor.
- 10,000 from The J. M. Smucker Company (via Paul H. Smucker)...1975 Golden Plate awardee.
- 5,000 from Robert B. Pamplin...1976 Academy honoree.
- 5,000 from Hugh F. Culverhouse...1975 recipient of the Golden Plate.
- 5,000 from the Southwire Company (via Roy Richards)...1977 guest of honor.
- 5,000 additional gift from Shapell Industries (via Nathan Shapell)...1974 awardee.
- 5,000 from an anonymous contributor.
- 1,000 from The Budd Company (via Glibert F. Richards)...1972 Academy honoree.
- 500 from Henry J. Nave...1976 recipient of the Golden Plate.
- 500 from Carlson Companies (via Curtis L. Carlson)...1977 guest of honor.

We are also grateful for these exceptional student-sponsorship donations during the past year:

- \$30,000 from Ernest W. Hahn, Inc...1974 guest of honor.
- 14,000 from Beatrice Foods Company (via Wallace N. Rasmussen)...1977 Golden Plate honoree.
- 12,800 from The Reader's Digest (via DeWitt Wallace)...1966 recipient of the Golden Plate.
- 5,000 from The Coca-Cola Company (via J. Paul Austin)...1977 Academy awardee...for 10 youths.
- 5,000 from PepsiCo Foundation (via Herman W. Lay)...1975 guest of honor...for 10 honor students.
- 2,272 from George W. Jenkins Foundation...1966 Golden Plate honoree...for Florida delegates.
- 2,965 from J. R. Simplot Company...1967 recipient of the Golden Plate...for Idaho delegates.
- 2,041 from Gold Seal Company (via Harold Schafer)...1972 Academy awardee...for N. Dakota youths.
- 20,000 (approx.) from the V.F.W. for its 50 state champions of the "Voice of Democracy" competition.
- 10,000 (approx.) from The American Legion for state champion orators and other honor representatives.
- ...plus \$1000 each from U.S. Steel, Pizza Hut, and J. S. Skaggs for Presidential Scholars of their states.